

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CPR-01 CA-01 HA-05 PA-01  
USIA-06 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 SCS-06 H-01 L-03 VO-05 JUSE-00 OES-07  
EB-08 COME-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 /107 W  
-----074221 010932Z /23

P R 311600Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5042  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0829

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: TGEN, TECH, CZ  
SUBJECT: REVIEW OF US-CZECHOSLOVAK BILATERAL RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: MFA SIXTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR ZANTOVSKY  
CALLED IN DCM MARCH 31 TO REVIEW CURRENT BILATERAL  
DEVELOPMENTS, WITH ATTENTION TO GOC CONCERN OVER PENDING  
US LEGISLATION ON DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES IN WASHINGTON  
AND MFA DESIRE TO MOVE AHEAD WITH EXCHANGES ACCORD  
IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM TALKS. DCM NOTED EMBASSY'S  
CONCERN OVER LATEST VISA REFUSAL TO LA TIMES  
CORRESPONDENT SEEGER AND RECENT POLICE INTERDICTION  
OF CZECH VISITORS TO CHANCERY, BUT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION  
FOR VISA ISSUANCE TO C.S. MONITOR CORRESPONDENT BOURNE  
AS WELL AD MFA HELP IN SMOOTHING PREPARATIONS FOR  
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RECENT VISITS HERE BY US CITIZENS AND OFFICIALS.  
END SUMMARY.

2. ZANTOVSKY OPENED MEETING BY READING FROM STATEMENT  
PREPARED BY MFA LEGAL ADVISORS TAKING ISSUE WITH PENDING  
US LEGISLATION CURRENTLY BEFORE THE CONGRESS ON  
QUESTIONS OF LEGAL IMMUNITIES FOR DIPLOMATS ACCREDITED

TO THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID GOC WAS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED WITH SECTION 5 OF US DRAFT LEGISLATION REQUIRING FOREIGN DIPLOMATS TO SUBMIT DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF THEIR STATUS TO US COURTS, IN EVENT OF THEIR ARREST, BEFORE THEY WOULD BE GRANTED IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION. CZECHOSLOVAKS SEE THIS PROVISION AS INCOMPATIBLE WITH ARTICLE 31, "AS WELL AS ARTICLE 37", OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION. ZANTOVSKY ASSERTED THAT SUCH A REQUIREMENT WOULD "AGGRAVATE SITUATION OF CZECHOSLOVAK DIPLOMATS" IN US VIS A VIS US DIPLOMATS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, WHO HAVE NO SUCH REQUIREMENT. IF IT WERE ENACTED INTO LAW, HE CAUTIONED, GOC WOULD BE OBLIGED TO CONSIDER RECIPROCAL LEGISLATION AIMED AT US DIPLOMATS.

3. DCM SAID HE COULD NOT SPEAK WITH AUTHORITY ABOUT LEGISLATION TO WHICH ZANTOVSKY REFERRED, BUT KNEW THAT WASHINGTON, D.C. LOCAL GOVERNMENT HAD ENCOUNTERED SO MANY ABUSES OF "DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY" -- FOR EXAMPLE WITH REGARD TO PARKING OF AUTOMOBILES -- THAT SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE. DRAFT LEGISLATION IS OBVIOUSLY MEANT TO COPE WITH THIS CONTINUING PROBLEM. DCM PLEDGED, HOWEVER, TO BRING ZANTOVSKY'S REMARKS TO ATTENTION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

4. ZANTOVSKY THEN TURNED TO MFA CONCERN OVER CONTINUING STALEMATE IN NEGOTIATIONS ON SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY  
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IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS FOR EXCHANGES AGREEMENT. HE PRESENTED DCM WITH DIPLOMATIC NOTE (TEXT SEPTCL) SUGGESTING POSSIBLE VISIT TO PRAGUE IN EARLY APRIL BY OES DEP ASST SEC GANLEY OR OFFICE DIRECTOR MORRIS TO TRY TO SPEED PROGRESS TOWARD CONCLUSION OF IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM TALKS. DCM REITERATED VIEW THAT NEXT STEPS ON EXCHANGES ACCORD ARE STILL UNDER STUDY IN THE DEPARTMENT AND PERSONALLY DOUBTED IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO BRING ANYONE FROM WASHINGTON TO WRAP THINGS UP. HOWEVER, ONCE MORE HE PLEDGED TO REPORT ZANTOVSKY'S VIEWS.

5. DCM RAISED QUESTION WHY MFA HAD NOT YET SENT EMBASSY A NOTE CONFIRMING THAT PANAM BLIND SECTOR RIGHTS FROM PRAGUE TO BUDAPEST WOULD BE EXTENDED FROM APRIL 30 TO OCTOBER 28, 1978. US DESK OFFICER RYCHLIK, ALSO PRESENT AS NOTE TAKER, INDICATED HE WOULD PREPARE SUCH A NOTE FOR EMBASSY AND ASSURED DCM THAT IN MFA'S VIEW THIS MATTER HAD BEEN RESOLVED.

6. IN LOOKING AT RECENT PLUSES AND MINUSES IN US-GOC BILATERAL RELATIONS, DCM CALLED ATTENTION TO LATEST REFUSAL OF JOURNALIST'S VISA TO LA TIMES REPORTER

MURRAY SEEGER AND NOTED SUCH ACTION INEVITABLY  
CREATED STRAINS THAT BOTH SIDES COULD PRESENTLY  
DO WITHOUT. ZANTOVSKY INDICATED HE WOULD COMMUNICATE  
WITH MFA PRESS DIRECTORATE TO SEE WHETHER SOMETHING  
COULD BE DONE (A NOTEWORTHY DEPARTURE FROM HIS USUAL  
RESPONSE THAT GOC IS DETERMINED TO KEEP OUT US JOURNALISTS  
WHOSE REPORTING IS NOT CONSIDERED "OBJECTIVE.").

7. DCM ALSO NOTED THAT LOCAL POLICE HAVE APPARENTLY  
BEGUN TO STOP CZECHOSLOVAK VISITORS TO VARIOUS SECTIONS  
OF THE EMBASSY, AFTER THEIR DEPARTURE FROM THE CHANCERY.  
HE EMPHASIZED EMBASSY'S SERIOUS CONCERN THAT THIS  
ACTIVITY, IF NOT STOPPED PROMPTLY, WOULD FURTHER  
STRAIN BILATERAL RELATIONS.  
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8. ON POSITIVE SIDE, DCM EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT  
DISTINGUISHED CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR CORRESPONDENT  
ERIC BOURNE HAS JUST RECEIVED A JOURNALIST VISA TO VISIT  
PRAGUE THIS SPRING AND THAT GOC HAS RECENTLY HELPED  
FACILITATE SEVERAL VISITS HERE BY PROMINENT US CITIZENS  
AS WELL AS USG OFFICIALS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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